

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11262

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. OPENING IN KIEV WENT VERY SMOOTHLY AND CONABLES MADE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION. WE FEEL THEY ENJOYED AND PROFITED FROM STAY. THEY WERE WELL RECEIVED BOTH IN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD. WILL OF COURSE WILL BE REPORTING

THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS, BUT WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT EXHIBIT IS MOST IMPRESSIVE I HAVE SEEN (OF SOME HALF DOZEN SUCH TRAVELLING EXHIBITS). IT IS BOUND TO BE A REAL HIT, ALTHOUGH ATTENDANCE FIGURES MAY SLIP SINCE IT IS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT TO MOVE PEOPLE THROUGH AS FAST AS HAS BEEN POSSIBLE WITH SOME OF THE OTHERS. THIS SHOULD NOT BE ALARMING, SINCE IT IS REALLY SIGN OF EFFECTIVENESS. IF POLAROID COULD BE INDUCED TO DONATE SOME COLOR FILM (I UNDERSTAND THEY HAVE REFUSED TO DONATE ANYTHING) IT WOULD INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS CONSIDERABLY SINCE EXHIBIT CAN AFFORD ONLY ENOUGH TO MAKE ONE POLAROID EVERY TWO MINUTES. MAYBE ANOTHER ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE AT AS HIGH A LEVEL AS POSSIBLE.

2. "MAYOR" GUSEV, WITH WHOM WE HAD QUITE A BIT OF TIME, SEEMS A DECENT, COOPERATIVE SORT, AND WE HOPE THAT HE WILL LATER PROVE HELPFUL WITH BOUNDARIES ISSUE. ROBIN HAD CHANCE TO MEET HIM AND TALK TO HIM FOR ABOUT 20 MINUTES, AND ALSO TO MEET UKRAINIAN

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MINISTER OF CULTURE, WHO CAME TO OPENING AND RECEPTION. WE DID

NOT HIT GUSEV DIRECTLY ON BOUNDARIES PROBLEM, BELIEVING THAT WE MIGHT ACHIEVE MORE BY GETTING TO KNOW HIM AND STRESSING POSITIVE (I.E., STRONG DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY WITH CONGENS AS SOON AS REMAINING PROBLEMS WORKED OUT). WE DO HAVE OPENING, HOWEVER, TO GO TO HIM LATER IF THAT SEEMS DESIRABLE. GUSEV, BY THE WAY, SPOKE UKRAINIAN THROUGHOUT, AS DID MOST OTHER LOCAL OFFICIALS. I DELIVERED THE FIRST HALF OF MY REMARKS IN UKRAINIAN (THANKS TO INTENSIVE PRIOR PRACTICE WITH MY LANGUAGE TEACHER, WHO IS NATIVE UKRAINIAN) AND THIS WAS EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED. WE WERE INTERESTED TO NOTE THAT RADYANSKA UKRAINY (BUT NOT PRAVDA UKRAINY) RAY STORY ON OPENING.

3. REBECCA AND I TOOK OUR FIRST LOOK AT PROPERTIES WHILE WE WERE THERE, ALONG WITH ROBIN AND SHAUN BYRNES. WE'LL BE GETTING OUT A CABLE ON OVERALL SITUATION, BUT I WOULD SIZE IT UP AS FOLLOWS IN PRELIMINARY FASHION:

-- STRILETSSKA: ABOUT OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO GET A LITTLE MORE SPACE BESIDE 16 FOR TRUCK ENTRY. WE DOUBT THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO BUDGE ON REAR BOUNDARIES OR PARK BEHIND 12.

-- GORKOHO: AFTER VIEWING BUILDING, I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY WE ARE THINKING OF 2ND AND 3RD FLOORS, RATHER THAN 1ST AND 2ND FLOORS. IDEA OF USING SECOND AND THIRD SEEMS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO ME, PARTICULARLY IF THIS MEANS USING COURTYARD ENTRANCE FOR GUESTS. THIS DEFINITELY WILL NOT WORK. I WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT WE TAKE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS, WITH PERHAPS ONE-THIRD OF BASEMENT (FRONT PORTION), TO USE FOR PROJECTION ROOM AND GARDEROBE FOR GUESTS TO LARGE RECEPTIONS AND FILM SHOWS (LIKE GROUND FLOOR IN LENINGRAD RESIDENCE).

-- FLORENTSIYA: WE SEE NO WAY THAT WE CAN PERSUADE SOVIETS TO PUT DOORS WHERE KNOOP DESIGNED THEM. THEY ARGUE (AND WE ARE NOT ENGINEERS) THAT THIS WOULD IMPAIR STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF BUILDING, GIVEN ITS DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS. THEY ALSO ARE NOT WILLING TO RELOCATE SEWERAGE PIPES SINCE THEY FEAR STOPPAGES ON HIGHER FLOORS. MAYBE KNOOP OR AN ENGINEER CAN SHOW THEM HOW TO DO IT, BUT TO US LAYMEN, ALL TOO FAMILIAR WITH SOVIET CONSTRUCTION, THEIR ARGUMENTS SEEM RATHER PERSUASIVE. IN SHORT, WE DON'T EXPECT TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS IN SECURING IMPLEMENTATION OF KNOOP'S FULL PLANS, AND MEANWHILE ALL WORK ON APARTMENTS IS HELD UP.

4. COULD YOU HAVE SOMEONE CHECK WITH CU ABOUT THE 1,465 RUBLE
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BILL IN CONNECTION WITH GOVERNORS VISIT HERE IN THE SPRING OF 1975? WE RECEIVED A LETTER DATED MARCH 10, 1976 FROM COLGATE PRENTICE (OFFICE OF LIAISON WITH GOVERNORS) WHICH SAYS THAT THE BILL HAD BEEN PASSED ON TO CU FOR ACTION. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING SINCE THEN AND UPDK IS REQUESTING PAYMENT.

5. WE HAVE RECEIVED TWO SEALED ENVELOPES FROM L. RATINER, OMA, ROOM 3526, INTERIOR, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, TO Y.B.

KAZMIN, DEPUTY HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF GEOLOGY, AND V.A.
ROMANOV OF MFA TREATY AND LEGAL DEPARTMENT, WITH REQUEST TO
POLITICAL OFFICER TO DELIVER. COULD YOU CHECK OUT CONTENTS WITH
RATINER BEFORE WE DO SO?
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